



St Mary's Convent Primary School

Bunscoil Clochar Mhuire
Trim, Co. Meath. C15WF98

T: (046) 943 1919 T: (046) 943 1127

E: office@stmarystrim.ie W: www.stmarystrim.ie

Príomh Oide: Fergal Kelly M.Ed. Leadership & Management

Leas Phríomh Oide: Siobhán Nally M.Ed.

Uimhir Rolla: 16646 O

Imlitir 3

October 15, 2024

Dear Parents,

Please read this Imlitir which has lots of information on activities and items that will be of interest to you.

School Lunches: We are delighted that our hot school meals began last Thursday after many months of preparation and consultation. The lunches are being funded by the Department of Social Protection and are being rolled out across the state. We are fortunate that we were approved at an early stage so that we were able to start in our first term. It was a very exciting day for the children who have been busy choosing from the extensive menus provided by Glanmore. Thank you to Anne and Marzena and Niall who helped to make sure that everything went smoothly. Pictures below are of the children tucking into their food as well as Mr Casey in distribution mode!



Spooky Walk: Our traditional spooky walk will take place on Friday 25th October weather permitting. Children can of course dress up on the day. The parents association are also having a bun sale and there is more information on this and the P.A. activities on the following pages.

Three year plan: Staff will be working on a strategic plan for the school over the coming weeks/months. The main targeted areas will be attendance, literacy and numeracy as well as a coordinated approach to wellbeing. We hope to produce a strategic plan overall in the New Year.

Lamh: Wednesday 16th October is "Lámh Day" and the theme this year is 'Lets Learn Lámh'. Some of our pupils communicate by using Lámh and some staff are upskilling on using this type of communication. We are always looking out for ways in which to ease the children's connection with school and their teachers and SNAs.

Road Safety: We will have a presentation on road safety for classes in the coming days. This is very important for our pupils and is part of our Green schools theme of travel and sustainability.

Homework Policy: I hope the children are settling back into the routine of homework. I will be discussing this policy with staff and parent groups over the coming weeks as part of strategic planning. Homework is not assigned on weekends. If it is taking excessively long for your child(ren) to complete assignments please bring the matter to the attention of the class teacher.

Staffing: We would like to welcome our work experience staff who will be working with classes throughout the year. We welcome in particular our new teachers from the colleges who are attending St Mary's to view and learn good practice as they embark on their teaching careers.

SCHOOL NEWS

MATHS WEEK

This week is Maths Week. At school the children will be involved in games and activities which help to promote Maths in a positive and enjoyable manner.

At home, we can use this opportunity to focus on Maths in the environment eg shapes of buildings, telling the time, handling money in shops and getting change etc.

For more details, information and to check out online events see www.mathsweek.ie

I Hope it will be a fun Maths Week for everybody!

E. Dineen

SCHOOL SAFETY

We would also ask that both parents and students use the sidewalk when walking to the school gates. With the amount of movement of traffic in the mornings it is the safe option for all. When bins are out please ensure that children always keep to the footpath so that every child is visible.

UKULELE FOR 4TH TO 6TH CLASS

Please be advised that all students from these classes are expected to pay the €25 ukulele fee per year as these lessons are part of our Music curriculum. Thank you.

Ms. McGale

PARKING PROBLEM

Please note that the row of parking spaces along the St Michael's school wall are all designated disability parking spaces. These are used by the buses collecting and dropping off our students with additional needs in the mornings and afternoons. As the number of buses outnumber the parking spaces it makes it very difficult if parents use these for drop off and pick up.

I note that some cars are still blocking nearby house entrances. Please avoid this if possible as parking so close to the school and these entrances is increasing risk to road users and children walking to school as well as being inconvenient for our neighbours.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Please note the following details relating to the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Parish of Trim & Boardsmill:

Confirmation Day - Friday, 31st January 2025 at 2pm in St Patrick's Church, Trim

SCHOOL UNIFORMS/MAKE UP

Quite a few school jumpers with no names are still being handed in to the office everyday. We would like to remind parents to ensure that all jumpers and tracksuit tops have their children's names written on them so that in the event of their loss they can be returned to their owners.

Some children are wearing make-up to school. Please ensure that your child is not wearing make-up when they set out for school. The secondary schools also prohibit the wearing of such cosmetics.

Parents Association

Christmas card Fundraiser

We would like to thank everyone for the great response for this year's Christmas card fundraiser. It is the best return of templates we have had to date. Well done to all the students who have done an incredible job on their artwork. Templates are now at the printers and your child's sample card will be sent home in due course as soon as we receive them. On receipt of your child's sample card, you will then be able to place an order via Aladdin for a pack of 12 (or more), priced at €10 per pack.

Halloween Bake Sale

On Friday 25th October, we will be hosting our annual Halloween Bake Sale for all the students, where students get to dress up in their favourite Halloween costume and indulge in some buns and biscuits! For this bake sale, we are kindly asking the following class years to bake/send in buns and biscuits for us to sell: Junior Infants, 1st Class, 3rd Class, 5th Class.

The bake sale will take place in the school hall from 9.20am – 11.00am and each bun will cost 50c (€2 limit per student). For those baking/sending in buns and biscuits, please drop off buns and biscuits to the school hall from 9am. Label any special dietary buns / biscuits and hand them in separately. The school has a NO NUTS policy due to potential allergies.

As always, volunteers to help sell the buns and biscuits are very much appreciated, so please do contact us at pa@stmarystrim.ie if you are available to help out. If you are feeling adventurous, you can dress up in your favourite Halloween costume too!



Coffee Morning

We are hosting a coffee morning for all new parents/guardians of students in the school on Friday 18th October 2024 from 9.15am to 10.15am in the staff room. This is a great opportunity to get to know the school better and to socialise with other parents. We look forward to meeting you all.



DLD AWARENESS DAY

On Thursday, 17th October, 2024, as a school we will be celebrating DLD (Developmental Language Disorder) Awareness Day.

Leaflets about Developmental Language Disorder (D.L.D) and useful tips/ activities how to encourage children's speech and language development, and other information will be posted in front of the office.

What is Developmental Language Disorder (DLD)?

DLD stands for Developmental Language Disorder. A person with DLD has significant on-going difficulties understanding and/or using spoken language. DLD emerges in early childhood and can persist into adulthood. There is no obvious reason for these language difficulties, for example, the child does not have autism, a hearing loss, physical, emotional or learning difficulty.

In the past, DLD was known as Specific Language Impairment (SLI), but recently the name has changed so that it better reflects the types of difficulties children have. A Speech & Language Therapist, after assessing a child, seeing them for speech & language intervention and monitoring the child's response to therapy, will give a child a diagnosis of DLD if their language difficulties:

- have a significant impact on progress at school/ on everyday life
- are not as a result of autism, hearing loss, physical, emotional, or learning difficulty
- are likely to persist past the age of five years
- are unlikely to catch up without help

Do we know the cause of DLD?

There is no obvious reason for DLD, for example, there is no hearing loss, physical or learning difficulty or autism that explains the communication difficulties. Scientists think that the part of the brain responsible for speech & language might be wired a little differently from that of a person with more typical language development- but differences are subtle and won't show up on a brain scan. Genes do play an important part in DLD but there is no medical test to see if a child has it or not. We do know DLD runs in families.

How common is DLD?

DLD is a hidden but common condition. DLD affects people around the world, no matter the language spoken. Studies in the U.K have shown that in five year olds, DLD affects about 2 children in every classroom in primary school (about 7.6%) and it is more common in boys than girls.

DLD AWARENESS DAY

What sorts of problems would a child with DLD have?

For a child to be given a diagnosis of DLD he/she must have language difficulties that persist into school age and beyond.

DLD does not affect children in the same way and the features of DLD vary with age, they may have some of these:

- Difficulty understanding what others say to them e.g. when asked questions/ given instructions
- Find it hard to join in and follow what is going on in the playground
- Difficulty remembering and sequencing their thoughts into words, even though they have the ideas and know what to say
- Difficulty remembering the words they want to say (word finding difficulties)
- Talk in sentences but have others find it difficult to understand their speech

A child with DLD won't necessarily sound like a younger child; instead their speech might sound disorganised or unusual.

Why is it important to recognise DLD?

In school, so much learning depends on being able to understand and use language. Children with DLD won't just "pick up" language, they will need support from a speech & language therapist, along with support teaching within the schools. Despite their difficulties with language, children with DLD can achieve well at school, both academically and socially. They just learn differently, the speech & language therapist advises the child's parents and teaching staff to know their child's best learning styles, their strengths and how to develop skills and strategies/ activities which will help develop their child's speech and language, helping them achieve their potential. It is important DLD is identified so the children can receive the supports they need.

What should I do if I feel my child may need help to develop his/her speech and language skills?

If you are worried/ concerned about your child's speech and language development, you do not need to go through your doctor or public health nurse, as a parent, you can refer your child for a speech & language assessment. You can contact your local HSE Primary Care Centre for a referral form. Your child's class teacher may also, after discussing with you, recommend that you/school refer your child to the Meath HSE Speech & Language Therapy Service. As parents, if you agree, you both need to consent to this referral by signing the referral form.

Kind regards,

Anngele Milner

Senior Speech & Language Therapist

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Attendance information for parents

Attendance is recorded daily by the class teacher on our online roll books via a school information programme.

There are two reporting mechanisms for attendance where attendance is reported to TUSLA, the child and family agency.

There are two reporting periods in the year, September to December and January to June. We are required to submit the school attendance returns now for September to December and again in June.

On this form we are required to list pupils, who have missed 20 school days for any reason. You will be informed if your child is included in the report. Explained absences, due to illness etc, are not a cause for concern and shouldn't cause any worry at all but a large number of unexplained absences may lead to further involvement from the Education Welfare Officer in TUSLA..

While attendance is hugely important and good attendance correlates strongly with improved outcomes, there are also very valid reasons that children miss school and this is understood.

Discretionary Referrals

Discretionary referrals are made where a school has concerns about the attendance of a pupil. This might be due to a lot of unexplained absences, a pattern of absence, significant ongoing issues with punctuality leading to a lot of missed learning time etc. A school will refer a child to the Education Welfare Officer where they have these concerns. The role of the Education Welfare Officer is primarily to offer support to families to improve attendance. The school will always contact parents before referring to the Education Welfare Officer and support where possible.

Key things to note

- The aim of attendance and punctuality procedures are to ensure the child gets the best experience of education and maximises learning time. We are available to support as needed
- There is no need for concern if you get a letter saying your child has been included on the attendance report. Explained absences are recorded as such.
- Be sure to inform the school as to reason for absence so that this can be recorded. You can also do this on the Aladdin system.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Halloween Break: Please be reminded that the school will be closed for mid-term break from Monday October 28th to Friday 1st November inclusive. I hope everyone enjoys the break. I have been asked by the Gardai to remind parents and children of the danger of Fireworks and similar materials over this holiday period. Our children who wish to dress up for Halloween can do so on Friday 25th Oct. School closes at 2.50pm on this date.





Féilire 2024 / 2025

Bunscoil Clochar Mhuire Ath Troim
St Mary's Primary School Trim
Fón: 046 943 1127 or 046 943 1919
Ríomhphost: office@stmarystrim.ie
www.stmarystrim.ie
Priomhoide: Fergal Kelly M.Ed
Leas Priomhoide: Siobhán Nally M.Ed.

TRIM HARDWARE & DIY
 Emmet St, Trim
046 943 1133
 For ALL your DIY
 and building needs.....
 sales@trimhardware.ie
Paint Studio Now Open





ACTIVE SCHOOL
Awarded June 2016, 2023



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
Awarded June 2015, 2022

September Méan Fómhair						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				28	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

October Deireadh Fómhair						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

November Samhain						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

December Mi na Nollag						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

January Eanáir						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February Feabhra						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

March Márta						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

April Aibreán						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May Bealtaine						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June Meitheamh						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

In the event of heavy snowfall this winter you will receive a text from the school with arrangements.

SCHOOL CLOSURES

HALLOWEEN BREAK
Oct 28th - Nov 1st 2024

CHRISTMAS BREAK
Dec 23rd - Jan 3rd 2025

FEB BREAK
Feb 3rd+17th -21st 2025

ST. Patrick's Day
Mar 17th 2025

EASTER BREAK
April 14th - 25th 2025

MAY BREAK
May 5th 2025

JUNE BREAK
May 30th
+ June 2nd 2025

IMPORTANT DATES

Thursday 29th Aug TBC 4th - 6th June 27th June	Return to School Confirmation Day/Communion Day Active School / Wellbeing Week Last day of school
---	--

LOST AND FOUND



IMPORTANT DATES

First Holy Communion: Saturday May 24, 2025 2:00pm

Confirmation Day: Friday January 31st at 2pm

Nath na Seachtaine: Conas atá tú? Tá mé go maith *Nó* Tá mé ceart go leor **How are you I'm good Or I'm fine**

Seanfhocal na Míosa: Ní neart go cur le chéile **Not enough to put together**



GREEN NEWS

International Food Day

International World Food Day falls on **Wednesday, October 16th**. The theme is 'the right to food and a better life and future. In view of the novelty and luxury of the hot meals our children are getting every day, it is good to be aware of the extent of world hunger. The data is very grim.

821 million people still suffer from hunger even though the world produces enough food for everyone. Scoilnet have a few nice activities for International World Food day. The following video would be suitable for 2nd class up.

<https://youtu.be/eRBLHaBNQh4>

You will find some other activities in this link.

<https://openknowledge.fao.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/5abafce1-7399-4988-84ce-e319b77c73b6/content>

Our Green Flag theme this year is Food and Biodiversity.



Planting in September with Miss Patricia and now look at the beautiful flower display (near first aid door) Thank you Miss Patricia & children!

WELCOME TO

HALLOWEEN CAMP

GAMES, ARTS, CRAFTS AND
S.T.E.M. ACTIVITIES

29th,
30th
October

ST MARY'S
CONVENT
NATIONAL SCHOOL

10AM
- 1PM

Please contact Mr. Casey on 0862242517 to book
OR Register your child/children using the QR code!

30€ 1st child, 25€ any additional children!
Places are limited so book early!

